

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02605 242013Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USPS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /037 W  
-----104793 250538Z /11

R 241953Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7474  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 02605

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AFSP, ELAB, CA  
SUBJECT: POST OFFICE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

REFS: OTTAWA 1988; OTTAWA 1843; OTTAWA A-72, MARCH 22,  
1978; AND OTTAWA A-84, APRIL 6, 1978.

1. STATUS OF INSIDE POSTAL WORKERS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND THE TREASURY BOARD NOT CLEAR.  
ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL OFFICER OF THE CANADIAN UNION OF  
POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW), THE CONCILIATION BOARD APPOINTED  
BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS BOARD IS STILL  
OFFICIALLY HOLDING HEARINGS EVEN THOUGH SESSIONS HAVE BEEN  
TEMPORARILY POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 29. CUPW HAD BEEN PRESENT-  
ING AFFIDAVITS AND "EXHIBITS" SUPPORTING THEIR CASE PRIOR  
TO THE AFOREMENTIONED TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT. UPON RESUM-  
PTION OF THE HEARINGS ON MAY 29, THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
WILL PRESENT ITS POSITION. THE UNION WILL FOLLOW, CLAIMING  
THEY HAVE ONLY PRESENTED HALF OF THEIR CASE THUS FAR.  
WHEN ASKED WHEN THE CONCILIATION BORD WILL PRESENT ITS  
REPORT, THE CUPW OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW. HE  
DID SAY THAT EITHER SIDE COULD "DROP OUT" OF THE CONCILI-  
ATION PROCESS GIVING A SEVEN-DAY NOTICE, BUT THAT THIS WAS  
NOT LIKELY AS FAR AS THE UNION WAS CONCERNED.

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2. BILL C-45, WHICH BANS A POSTAL STRIKE SIXTY DAYS BEFORE  
AND SEVEN DAYS AFTER A NATIONAL ELECTION, IS NOT IMMEDIATELY  
RELEVANT SINCE A FEDERAL ELECTION PROBABLY WILL NOT BE HELD  
BEFORE THE FALL OF 1978 AT EARLIEST.

3. COINCIDENTAL TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT

RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE, A PRIVY COUNCIL STUDY GROUP HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFORMING THE POSTAL SERVICE INTO A CROWN CORPORATION. THE THREE-MAN STUDY GROUP IS CHAIRED BY STANLEY DARLING OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL WITH WILLIAM KELLY OF LABOUR CANADA AND JOHN HUBERT OF THE TREASURY BOARD ASSISTING. UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ADVISE THE STUDY GROUP BUT WILL NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IF CONFLICTING ISSUES ARISE. THE STUDY GROUP HAS MET ONLY ONCE BUT IS EXPECTED TO HOLD ADDITIONAL SESSIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. A REPORT FROM THIS GROUP MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 1978.

4. COMMENT: AS EXPLAINED IN EARLIER MESSAGES, THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS IS NOT STRUCTURED IN A DEFINITIVE MANNER. THEREFORE, THE ANSWER TO UNITED STATES OFFICIALDOM, ESPECIALLY THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT WHICH MAELS MANY CHECKS TO RECIPIENTS IN CANADA, IS THAT NO ONE THUS FAR CAN SAY THAT THERE WILL OR WILL NOT BE A STRIKE IN THE CANADIAN POSTAL SERVICES AT ANY SPECIFIC TIME. THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AND KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** AFSP, ELAB, CA  
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